

# REPORT ON UNO SITE IRKS WESTCHESTER

## Six Supervisors and County Chief Oppose Move—Dewey Pledges Cooperation

By MORRIS L. KAPLAN

While Governor Dewey assured the United Nations Organization site-inspection committee yesterday that cooperation between New York and Connecticut could easily be established if areas in both States were recommended for a permanent headquarters of the UNO, a storm of protest roared in from Westchester County officials.

Contending that they had "reason to believe" that the Westchester-Connecticut area was first choice on the UNO group's list of recommendations, partly because of its proximity to New York, six supervisors joined County Executive Herbert C. Gerlach in a vigorous denunciation of the site proposal.

In a long statement prepared for presentation to the UNO group they asserted that they based their protest on a map submitted to Mr. Gerlach by the County Planning Commission which would involve an estimated 140 square miles and affect 10,000 persons. The original map, drawn by E. P. Goodrich, engineer consultant to the UNO committee, indicated three proposed "takings," including the \$4,000,000 county airport, according to Mr. Gerlach.

Dr. Stoyan Gavrilovitch of Yugoslavia, chairman of the seven-man group that has been investigating possible sites since Jan. 9, announced that "findings" on both permanent and interim sites would be made public today.

### Fails to See Chairman

Mr. Gerlach made an unsuccessful attempt to see Dr. Gavrilovitch shortly before Governor Dewey greeted the UNO delegation at his suite in the Roosevelt Hotel. He obtained an appointment to confer at noon today with Huntington Gilchrist, secretary to the group.

County officials expressed consternation at what they considered the site proposal. They said residents were disturbed by persistent reports that options were being taken on property, especially in the Guard Hill Road section of Bedford.

Lending credence to the UNO's reported interest in a Westchester area that overlapped into Connecticut was information volunteered by Governor Dewey at a press conference after his meeting with Dr. Gavrilovitch. Observing that there were two possible sites involving this State and Connecticut, the Governor said he had assured to the committee "fullest cooperation," that he had great sympathy for its mission and was interested in doing everything to assist the UNO. Cooperation between the States "could be easily established," he told Dr. Gavrilovitch.

The question of land-taking through the rights of eminent domain never arose in their "extremely cordial" meeting, the Governor said. He added that he understood the Federal Government would solve this problem.

"I assured Dr. Gavrilovitch there would be no difficulty with the Legislature of the State in making necessary arrangements," he asserted.

Asked whether he wanted the UNO to make its headquarters in New York, he replied: "Oh, surely."

The Governor had not heard of the protest lodged by the Westchester Supervisors. In their statement the Supervisors observed that the proposed site embraced 60 per cent of the town of North Castle, the entire town of Poundridge, 99 per cent of the town of Lewisboro, 50 per cent of the town of North Salem, 85 per cent of the town of Bedford and a portion of the towns of New Castle, Harrison and Rye, including the county airport.

### \$60,000,000 Assessed Value

The area carries assessed valuations of about \$60,000,000 and is populated by more than 10,000 persons, according to the statement. The tax rate was estimated at \$30 a thousand. The signers gave as reasons for their protest that the contemplated plan was "unreasonably large" and that it had been promulgated without consideration of problems involved and "entirely without consultation with or advice of either the Department of Planning" or town officials.

The statement cited "unprecedented obvious hardships" involved, including dislocation of residents, failure of any reasonable compensation to recompense persons affected and the present "vital shortage" of housing.

It condemned the proposal also on the ground that it would remove "the area of natural and expected growth" and "curtail and seriously impair the financial and cultural expansion" of the county.

The statement was signed by the following supervisors: James D. Hopkins, North Castle; William D. Shine, Poundridge; Hugh Coyle, Lewisboro; Elbert T. Purdy, North Salem; Edward P. Barrett, Bedford, and Robert B. Stewart, New Castle.

Mr. Gerlach, in a letter to Dr. Gavrilovitch, referred to the map, which he said proposed taking a "primary area," first extension and second extension, totaling an estimated 140 square miles.

Walter Weil, chairman of the Town Planning Board of North Castle, reported his community "dead against the reported plan" and said it would involve 3,500 persons there. Petitions were circulated yesterday at the town's railroad station, where many signatures were obtained, he said.

Dr. Gavrilovitch, observing he was not acquainted with the proposed map, insisted his committee was interested in about fifty square miles. He offered no comment on the Westchester report that their area was considered as first choice of his group and remarked that "those extensions may be alternative."

The UNO committee will meet Mayor O'Dwyer at City Hall at 11 A. M., today and board a plane at midnight for London.